Mosques, Prayer Halls, and Restorations under Franco (1936–1975)

A concise dossier of sites in Ceuta, Melilla, the Protectorate of Morocco, and mainland Spain associated with construction, funding, restoration, or official facilitation by Franco's regime. Dates are based on the best-available published sources; notes indicate whether funding was state, municipal, community, or mixed.

Site	Location	Type of Action	Date(s)	Notes / Actors
Morabito Mosque (Al■Marabuto)	Córdoba (Jardines de Colón), Spain	New build (gift to Muslim troops)	Late 1930s (Spanish Civil War); opened 1952	Built during the Civil War as a gift for Franc
y El■Mehdi Mosque	Ceuta, Spain	New build	1939–1940; inaugurated 18 July 1940	Major mosque built under Franco-era a
Embarek Mosque	Ceuta, Spain	New build on earlier morabito (saint's tomb)	Consecrated 1940; later restored	Project by municipal architect José Mar
ral Mosque (Mezquita Central)	Melilla, Spain (C/ García Cabellos)	New build (Franco-era)	Project 1938; built 1945–1947; inaugurated 7 Sept 1947	Architect Enrique Nieto; Sept 1947 note c
hborhood prayer spaces & small oratories	Ceuta & Melilla	Authorization / municipal support, multiple small builds	1940s–1980s	Expansion of small mosques/oratories i
er halls (musall■s) for Regulares & visiting delegations	Mainland Spain (military garrisons, hospitals, Madrid seat)	Temporary prayer halls; delegation hajj	1936–1939; 1940s–1950s	Documented provision of prayer spaces

Notes & Cautions

• "Funding" varies by case: some projects (e.g., Melilla's Central Mosque) were primarily financed by the Muslim community while authorized and facilitated by Francoist authorities; others (e.g., Muley El■Mehdi, Sidi Embarek) show clearer municipal/regime involvement. • In Ceuta, pre■existing morabitos (marabouts) such as Sidi Embarek, Sidi Bel Abbas and Sidi Brahim predated the regime; the 1940 construction at Sidi Embarek created a purpose■built mosque on that sacred site. • Mainland prayer halls were typically within barracks, hospitals, or temporary venues for delegations; they rarely appear in architectural registers.

Selected Sources (accessed August 19, 2025)

• Al■Morabito Mosque (Córdoba): Wikipedia entry; Mosqpedia profile; OSCE/ODIHR TANDIS 'Muslims in Spain' report noting the Marabout in Jardines de Colón as first modern oratory.
• Muley El■Mehdi Mosque (Ceuta): Wikipedia (EN/ES); El Faro de Ceuta (80th anniversary feature, 17 Jul 2020).
• Sidi Embarek Mosque (Ceuta): Wikipedia (ES) detailing 1940 construction and later reconstructions; 'Historia de Ceuta' page noting 1940 construction; photographic documentation (Wikimedia Commons).
• Central Mosque of Melilla: Wikipedia (ES) with project/build dates and 1947 inauguration; El Faro de Melilla features; Dialnet article on 'Ruta de los templos' confirming project origin and community funding; Commission Islámica de Melilla site.
• Prayer halls & religious support for Moroccan troops: Ali Al Tuma, 'Moros y Cristianos' (2016) on religious aspects of Regulares in the Civil War; scholarship on Franco■sponsored hajj (Moreras 2020; CSIC Culture & History).

Key URLs (for follow■up)

• Al■Morabito (Córdoba): https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Morabito_Mosque
• Mosqpedia (Al■Morabito): https://mosqpedia.org/masajid/al-morabito-mosque/
• TANDIS 'Muslims in Spain' (PDF): https://tandis.odihr.pl/bitstream/20.500.12389/20533/2/05555.pdf
• Muley El■Mehdi (Ceuta): https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muley_El-Mehdi_Mosque
• El Faro de Ceuta (80º aniversario): https://elfarodeceuta.es/primera-mezquita-ceuta-muley-mehdi-aniversario-inauguracion/
• Sidi Embarek (ES Wikipedia): https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mezquita_Sidi_Embarek
• Historia de Ceuta (ES Wikipedia): https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Historia_de_Ceuta
• Central Mosque Melilla (ES Wikipedia): https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mezquita_Central_de_Melilla
• El Faro de Melilla (77º aniversario): https://elfarodemelilla.es/se-cumplen-77-anos-desde-que-se-inauguro-la-mezquita-central/
• Dialnet 'Ruta de los templos' (PDF): https://dialnet.unirioja.es/descarga/articulo/6773953.pdf
• CSIC 'The Way to Mecca' (PDF): https://cultureandhistory.revistas.csic.es/index.php/cultureandhistory/article/download/187/609/1832

Prepared for research use; please verify local archival records for funding specifics (municipal vs. state vs. community) where needed.